

selectively issuing another one of the plurality of commands based on the determining step, the other command being different from the one command.

32. (New) A method according to claim 31, further comprising:

performing a look-up in a device table to determine device type information associated with the one managed device.

33. (New) A method according to claim 32, further comprising:

storing the device type information in an asset table based on the determined device type information.

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-33 are pending, in which claims 4, 11, 17, and 26 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 31-33 are newly presented, and claims 1, 5, 6, 8-10, 12-15, 18, 22, and 27 are amended.

The Office Action mailed April 26, 2002 rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by *Compliment et al.* (US 6,360,260).

In response to the objection to the title of the invention, Applicants have accordingly amended the title.

In the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 22. As amended, independent claim 1 recites a management station "transmitting subsequent commands that are different from the prior commands." Amended claim 8 recites "the management station selectively outputs a second command from the plurality of commands to the managed device if the first command does not provide unique identification of the

managed device, the second command being different from the first command.” Also, independent claim 15 now recites “computer usable program code configured to cause the management station to transmit subsequent commands from the set of commands to the responding ones of the managed devices if the identities are not determined, wherein the subsequent commands are different from the initial commands.” Further, amended claim 22 recites “selectively outputting subsequent commands to the managed devices based on the determining step, wherein the subsequent commands are different from the initial commands.”

In the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the Office Action relies on reference of *Compliment et al.* to satisfied the features and limitations of the claimed invention. In light of the present amendment, Applicants urges the withdrawal of this rejection.

The reference of *Compliment et al.* discloses a system in which a SNMP managed device generates and transmits, to the Management Station or other network stations, a Frame indicating that the managed device is present in the network (see Abstract). The process of transmitting the frame continues until the Management Station responds with a frame acknowledging receipt. The managed device then sets a Timer and monitors for receipt of the Response frame from said Management Station. If the timer expires and the Response frame is not received within the timer interval, the registration process is initiated. Applicants submit that the operation of the *Compliment et al.* system is very different from that of the claimed invention.

Notably, the Office Action, on page 2, item 7, refers to col. 5, lines 39-48 of the *Compliment et al.* reference for a supposed disclosure of use of subsequent commands (with respect to now canceled claim 4). The reference discloses, in col. 5, lines 30-48, that the Management Stations discover all of the managed devices by querying the ARP Caches of each of the routers. When the discovery trap feature is enabled, all of the managed devices send SNMP traps (frames) to the Management Stations that are defined in their Management Tables.

The Auto Discovery TRAP is also used to establish contact between Management Stations and managed devices. As a result, the Management Stations learn/discover the managed devices. Once the managed devices are discovered, the Management Stations start to poll the managed devices on a periodic basis to maintain a connection with the managed device. In the event that a connection with one of the Management Stations is lost, the ARP Cache feature (pings) or the discovery trap starts and runs until the connection is re-established.

From the above passage, Applicants respectfully submit that a general disclosure of periodic polling by the management station cannot reasonably be equated to the limitation of a “transmitting subsequent commands that are different from the prior commands.” As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claim be disclosed in a prior art reference, based on the foregoing, it is clear that *Compliment et al.* fails to anticipate amended independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 22.

Because dependent claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 18-21, 23-25, and 27-30 depend correspondingly from amended independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 22, they are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons for the allowability of claims 1, 8, 15, and 22.

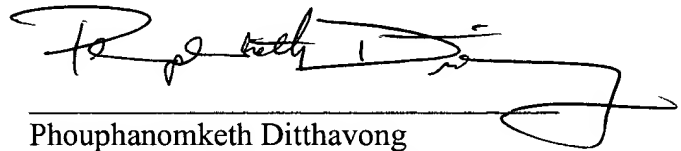
Turning now to newly added claims 31-33, independent claim 33 is directed to a method for discovering managed devices, and recites “selectively issuing another one of the plurality of commands based on the determining step, the other command being different from the one command.” As noted above, the *Compliment et al.* operates entirely different to discover the managed devices, and cannot and does not disclose issuing different commands, in the manner claimed. Therefore, it is believed that the cited reference does not in any way disclose or obviate the method recited in independent claim 31; and the dependent claims 32 and 33 are therefore also believed to be patentably distinguishable over the applied references.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

DITTHAVONG & CARLSON, P.C.

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Date



Phouphanomketh Ditthavong
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 44658

10507 Braddock Road
Suite A
Fairfax, VA 22032
Tel. (703) 425-8508
Fax. (703) 425-8518

APPENDIX

1. (Amended) A network apparatus comprising:

a management station [adapted to couple with a network including a plurality of managed devices, the management station being] configured to output a plurality of [initial] commands [for application] to [respective] a plurality of managed devices[, the initial commands being configured to stimulate] for stimulating [initial] responses from the managed devices,

wherein the management station [being further configured to receive the initial responses,] is configured to identify responding ones of the managed devices [responsive to the received initial responses] by selectively transmitting subsequent commands that are different from the prior commands [, and to provide an asset table containing the identified managed devices].

5. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim [4] 1 wherein the received [initial] responses comprise failed responses.

6. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the management station is configured to compare individual received [initial] responses with a device table to identify the device types of responding one of the managed devices.

8. (Amended) A network comprising:

[a plurality of managed devices configured to communicate signals; and]

a management station configured to output a first command from a plurality of [initial] commands [for application] to [respective] a managed device[s, the initial commands being

configured to stimulate initial responses from the managed devices, the management station being further configured to receive the initial responses,] to identify [responding ones of] the managed device[s responsive to the received initial responses, and to provide an asset table containing the identified managed devices] , wherein the management station selectively outputs a second command from the plurality of commands to the managed device if the first command does not provide unique identification of the managed device, the second command being different from the first command.

9. (Amended) The network according to claim 8 wherein the management station and the managed device[s] are individually configured to execute a Simple Network Management Protocol [management] program.

10. (Amended) The network according to claim 8 wherein the management station is configured to communicate with the management device[s] using Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol [communications].

12. (Amended) The network according to claim [11] 8 wherein [the] a received [initial] response[s] associated with the first command comprises a failed response[s].

13. (Amended) The network according to claim 8 wherein the management station is configured to compare [the received initial] a response[s] from the managed device with a device table to identify [the] device type[s of responding ones of the managed devices].

14. (Amended) The network according to claim 8 wherein the management station is configured to apply a management command[s] to [respective] an identified managed device[s], the applied management command[s] individually corresponds to [respective] a device type[s] of the identified managed device[s].

15. (Amended) A computer program product comprising:

computer usable program code configured to cause a management station to communicate a plurality of initial commands to a plurality of managed devices of a network;

computer usable program code configured to cause the management station to identify the managed devices [receive] based upon a plurality of initial responses from the managed devices;

computer usable program code configured to cause the management station to transmit subsequent commands [identify] to the responding ones of the managed devices if the identities are not determined, wherein the subsequent commands are different from the initial commands; and

computer usable program code configured to cause the management station to provide an asset table containing the identified managed devices.

18. (Amended) The product according to claim [17] 15 wherein the received initial responses comprise failed responses.

22. (Amended) A management station operational method comprising:

[providing a network comprising a plurality of managed devices;]

outputting a plurality of initial commands to [the] managed devices using a management station to stimulate initial responses from the managed devices;

[receiving the initial responses from the managed devices using the management station;
and]

determining identities of the managed devices based on received initial responses; and
selectively outputting subsequent commands to the managed devices based on the
determining step, wherein the subsequent commands are different from the initial commands

[identifying the managed devices using the management station responsive to the
receiving initial responses].

27. (Amended) The method according to claim [26] 22 wherein the [selecting
subsequent commands is responsive to the receiving the] initial responses comprising failed
responses.

31. (New) A method for discovering managed devices, the method comprising:
selecting one of a plurality of commands for transmission to one of the managed devices
to trigger a response unique to the one managed device;
determining whether a combination of the one command and an associated response from
the one managed device uniquely identifies the one managed device; and
selectively issuing another one of the plurality of commands based on the determining
step, the other command being different from the one command.

32. (New) A method according to claim 31, further comprising:
performing a look-up in a device table to determine device type information associated
with the one managed device.

33. (New) A method according to claim 32, further comprising:

storing the device type information in an asset table based on the determined device type information.